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March 31, 1998 LB 700, 1161

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Clerk, members of the Legislature, this amendment is the Geologists Registration Act, it is LB 700, that has come out of the Natural Resources Committee on a 6-0 vote. The geologists have spent a great deal of time, over the last two or three years, talking to all individuals everywhere with respect to geology and the practice of geology and negotiating with the engineers, and they have worked out all of their problems, even to the extent of having the engineers testify for them before the committee this year. And I would like to present to you and ask you to recognize geology as a...as a licensed profession. That's what this bill does, and that's what's before you in this amendment. In the amendment, all of the characteristics of a registration act appear. There is a definition of the practice of geology. For those of you who are interested, that's on page 3, Section 61 of the bill. There is appointment of a Board of Geologists, seven members appointed by the Governor. The constitution of that board is set out in Section 66, which is page 4 of the amendment. There is a fund set up. The fund is funded by applications and licensure fees that are characteristics of a licensure act, not to exceed \$300, provision for renewal fees and a couple of other specialty kinds of fees, all of which go into the regis...into the registration fund. There is a code of practice set out, that's in Section 72, page 8, if you're interested in that. Prohibited acts are set out in Section 80, page 15 of the bill, and in Section 84, page 18 of the bill, there is a detailed description of the application for a license; it includes references. It includes minimum course work, and an undergraduate degree, or, in some case, a substitute of experience for some of that. It includes five years of experience, generally, and it includes passage of an examination, all of which, I think, are characteristic of licensure acts of different types. One of the most important sections is Section 86, which I would just bring to your attention as accepted activity. And under that section, essentially, appears a large number of the negotiations that have been going on with different parties over time and is...and there is set out there, (a) through... (a) through (k), different types of work and activity that are not defined as the practice of geology under the bill, and I think, thereby, avoids conflicts, avoids most of the conflicts that characteristically arise in this kind of legislation. I think they've done a good